

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:18 pm on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Mike Kelly, Frank Esposito, Steve Carroll, Matt Palmer, Dot Stillinger, and Township Committee Liaison Kathy Abbott.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2013 and January 2014 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Every first Tuesday February through December 2014 and the second Tuesday in January 2015.

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July NO MEETING, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2 in 2014 and January 13 in 2015.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the November 5, 2013 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Frank Esposito 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING 7:24 – 8:02

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

GREEN TEAM MEETING – Continued discussing sustainable jersey points for 2016.

CTEC to consider geo thermal heating at the Red School House, which would achieve SJ points. Members discussed the expense and inquired about the existing heating system. Steve will research the heating system and clarify. Proposed achieving SJ points using the tree protection ordinance, further discussion of ordinance necessary. Kathy Abbott went to the League of Municipalities Sustainable Jersey luncheon, which has grown to over 400 attendees. The luncheon featured a presentation which showed the Chatham Township rocket composter.

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

DISCUSSION

Discussed the position of treasurer on the Environment Commission. Members agreed with the importance of that position and the necessity of reviewing the budget. Budget needs to be review and account for the sapling sale and grant money from Investors Savings, which will be utilized for environmental purposes.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW/CLOSED. Application to Board of Adjustment by AT&T for antennas on the water tower on Buxton Road.

- CINGULAR WIRELESS. PCS LLC (AT &T) 63 BUXTON ROAD, BLOCK: 62 LOT: 105. Use, Height, Bulk variances and site plan approval to place twelve(12) antennas on the existing water tank and related equipment. Site visit is Saturday Dec. 7 at 9:30 a.m. and the next hearing is Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. Experts will be present to give information. No comment needed from CTEC.

PENDING. 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 9-30-13 by R. Gunn for a General Permit #8 for disturbance of up to 750 sf for clearing of vegetation, placement of pavement and expansion of building. DEP approved 9-30-13.

PENDING. 446 Green Village Rd., Block 144, Lot 50. Application to NJDEP dated 8-5-13 by R. Gunn for Floodway and Flood Hazard Area verifications. Letter to NJDEP has been sent concerning both Gunn applications..

PENDING. Bhee properties, Block 61, Lot 10, 697 Fairmount Ave. Application to Planning Board to subdivide an acre property into two 1/2-acre lots in the R-3 (1/2-acre) zone. Fifty-foot drop from Sunset Drive to Fairmount Ave. Proposed usable lot area is only half of that required on each lot. Variances requested for very large deviations from required slope disturbances. Soil is loose and depth to bedrock is small so much potential for erosion and stormwater runoff.

PENDING. 23 Loantaka Lane South, Block 139, lot 17. Application by Home Help New Jersey, LLC to NJDEP for renewal of wetland disturbance permit. CTEC sent letters to NJDEP and others noting that the proposed required wetland compensation area is not on property owned by the applicant but is on land owned by the Morris County Park Commission. NJDEP has sent applicant a Letter of Deficiency requiring among other things a conservation easement on all the property outside of the transition area (which is the entire remainder of the property) specifying no vegetation disturbance including mowing and gardening.

PENDING. 509 Shunpike Rd. Block 128, lot 14. Application to Planning Board to subdivide the 1-acre property into 2 1/2-acre lots. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Property is near Long Hill Chapel. Wetlands begin at rear property line. When the application comes up before the Planning Board CTEC will send memo to Planning Board suggesting asking applicant to obtain an LOI.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance. The Refuge under no circumstances would consider acquiring it until the cleanup has been completed and all liability has been extinguished. It has been declared "an area in need of redevelopment" by the Township Committee. What does that mean for conservation purposes?

REPORTS

Planning Board report. Green Checklist is moving forward recommending approval by Township Committee.

Township Committee report.

Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant. Wastewater Management Plan complete adopting at 12/4/13 TC meeting. The township is not participating in the de-snagging grant that was offered by the State, as they feel there is only a small amount of flood plain and would not benefit the township. According to The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System – CRS, Chatham has minimal flood area, effects 55 homes throughout Chatham, due to not being over developed. The flood area should be incorporated into the NRI and sewer maps.

K. Abbott, Township Committee liaison.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan and M. Schaaf, Open Space Committee liaisons.

Communications Committee report.

Archive page on EC website is an excellent resource, serves as backup for important files. Township website has been updated and problems addressed with the CTEC website. F. Esposito, Chair.

Recycling Committee report.

MUA meeting next week. Will suggest a convenient location for one of the 2014 electronics and appliance drop off events. M. Schaaf, F. Esposito, Chair.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report.

Mulch-mow leaves and leave on lawn. Put article from NY Times on website. Pursue educational information on this topic. Blue Gold Water documentary 12/5/13 7 pm, Library of the Chathams, M. Kelly, M. Schaaf, and F. Esposito, Chair.

Legal Issues Committee meeting on November 25, 2013. Next meeting Monday Jan. 6 at 7 PM. All welcome.

- Sunset Lake, nothing new.
- Loantaka Lane South, nothing new, no notice in NJDEP Bulletin.
- GIS update. Nothing new.
- Old Bridge conservation easement tracking. Old Bridge ordinance requires property purchasers to be notified by the township in writing of any conservation easement. Can Chatham Township pass a similar ordinance? LI Committee can prepare a draft ordinance based on the one from Old Bridge.
- Conservation easements on 4 properties on River Road, including the one on the Greeve property, need to be recorded and accepted. Planning Board final subdivision approval was granted 3-21-96 conditioned that a conservation easement on all four new parcels had to be granted to the Township. Developer was Nick Parisi.
- LIC will pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
- Suggest applications be reviewed by entire EC, not just the LIC.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- GSWA stream team volunteer monitoring a tributary of Black Brook noticed disturbances in the stream on the McDonFen property on Southern Boulevard. Shovel marks and tire tracks were observed on the side of the bank and dredge spoils had been

deposited on the top of the bank. No wetlands permits had been issued. Township Engineer has issued a summons for failure to obtain a lot grading plan.

- Desnagging the Passaic River. Chatham Township did not join the other 5 nearby river towns in applying for a joint grant.
- Parking lots at Colony Pool and high school. • Student carpooling.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, may be the only Morris County town that assumes the responsibility for soil and erosion instead of leaving it to the county.
- Complete Streets. K. Abbott.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- November 2013. Letter to NJDEP concerning Gunn application for wetlands permits on property on Green Village Road.
- October 2013. Report sent by e-mail to Sunset Lake Association about observations during CTEC property walk with questions and suggestions.
- April 2013. Letters concerning application to NJDEP for extension of Transition Area Waiver and General Permit by Home Help New Jersey, LLC sent to NJDEP, Morris County Planning Board, Morris County Park Commission.
- March 2013. Letter to three new owners of properties with conservation easements mentioning the existence of a conservation easement on part of their property.
- January 2013. Letter to NJDEP urging good vegetation management in power line rights-of-way, including the North Central Reliability Project, and revegetation with native species.

EVENTS

- M. Kelly and K. Abbott will give the Sapling Sale presentation in Montclair on Dec. 5.
- Friday, January 24, 2014, 10 am - 12:30 pm. Capitol Day with ANJEC, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ. Free for CTEC members.
- The Rutgers Environmental Stewards Training Program will have new sessions of its course starting in January 2014 in locations around New Jersey. The Program provides training and experience that equips participants to contribute effectively to finding solutions for environmental problems in their communities. <http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Contacts.htm>. S. Carroll took the course and can comment.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN

9:50

Carolyn Scannelli